Demand of Mail Train

417. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demands being made since long for running a mail train with upper class coaches between Delhi and Degana in place of Jodhpur Mail;

(b) whether the Government contemplated to run a mail train with upper class coaches between Delhi and Degana;

(c) if not, the reasons for depriving the upper class passengers from this facility;

(d) whether conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge between Delhi and Degana to again run a broad gauge Jodhpur Mail between Delhi and Jodhpur *via* above route is feasible in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) At present, 2461/2462 Delhi-Jodhpur Mandore Express, having two AC 2 tier and one AC First class (tr-weekly) coaches, is available between Delhi & Degana (*via* Jaipur, Phulera). The feasibility of running of a train between Delhi & Degana on Metre Gauge has been examined but not found feasible due to operational difficulties and resource constraints.

(d) and (e) B. G. line exists between Delhi & Rewari. A servey for gauge conversion from Rewari to Degana *via* Ratangarh M.G. line has been taken up by Northern Railway. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Missing of Goods

418. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of goods booked with Railways was found missing during the last year, zone-wise/state-wise; and

(b) the amount of claim given on that account ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The State-wise statistics are not maintanied. However, the amount claimed by the claimants for missing consignments on account of loos, theft and pilferage etc. and the amount paid Zone-wise for the year 1996-97 is as under :

(Figs. in Lakhs)

Railway	Amount claimed for missing goods on account of loss, theft, pilferage etc.	Net amount paid as compensation
Central	5932.00	300.70
Eastern	5870.21	324.19
Northern	8162.22	746.12
N.E.	3419.45	79.39
N.F.	5130.34	325.36
Southern	6588.28	249.88
S.C.	5196.82	191.62
S.E.	8224.78	359.76
Western	5873.44	285.62

Difficulties to Passenger Due to no Stoppage of Train

419. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide a stoppage for some important trains like 2253/2254 Vaishali Express and 5207/5208 Barauni-Amritsar Express at Mankapur (U.P.) Station;

(b) if so, the time by which the stoppage for trains at Mankapur station is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not , the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal was examined but not found commercially justified.

[English]

British Airways

420. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Airways plans to increase its capacity entitlement on India—U.K. sector has suffered a setback after the Government's decision to come out with a comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy;